(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that there are three branches of LIC in Meghalaya located at Tura, Shillong and Jowai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Enactment of effective laws to prevent encroachments around Ancient Monuments

*713. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing laws are not comprehensive and stringent enough to take care of the encroachers in and around our ancient monuments;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for amending those laws; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The existing laws are effective to deal with encroachers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Purchase of share holdings in Newspapers by the Financial Institutions

†*714. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a financial institution of Government of India had purchased share holding in the Pioneer newspaper;

(b) if so, the quantum thereof and conditions laid in this regard;

(c) the names of other newspapers wherein the financial institutions of Government of India have purchased share holdings; and

(d) the policy of Government of India in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A company called M/s. CMYK Private Ltd., which has taken over the assets of "The Pioneer" on lease-rent basis for running "The Pioneer" has been sanctioned financial assistance by different financial institutions including IDBI, ICICI, IFCI and UTI by way of rupee term loan and equity. Government financial institutions, namely IDBI, Exim Bank, IFCI and IIBI do not have any shareholding in any newspaper.

(d) The decision regarding financing a particular economic activity or category of entrepreneurs is taken by financial institutions themselves based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

Insurance cover for road accident victims by NHAI

*715. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India conceived of an insurance plan to insure the life of people using the National Highways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the NHAI has thus far not taken into account the losses being suffered due to high accident rate;

(c) whether any interaction has taken place with the insurance sector to devise ways of helping poor accident victims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Road safety aspects are being considered while formulating proposals for development and maintenance of National Highways.

(c) No, Sir. National Highways Authority of India has not initiated any dialogue with insurance companies.

(d) Does not arise.